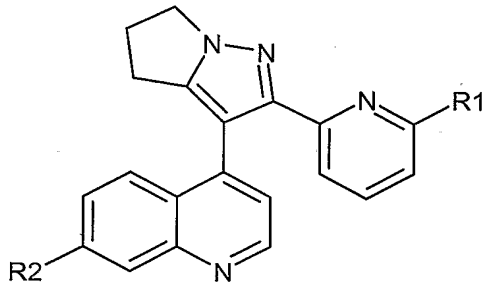
We claim:

1. A compound of the formula:



Formula I

wherein,

R1 represents hydrogen, halo, or (C1-C4)alkyl; and

R2 represents:

(a) aryl;

(b) aryl optionally substituted one to three times with a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of:

(i) halo,

(ii) amino,

(iii) nitro,

(iv) hydroxy,

(v) cyano,

(vi) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl,

(vii) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy,

(viii) hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl,

(ix) amino$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl

(x) hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy,

(xi) halo$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy,

(xii) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy,

(xiii) trifluoromethyl,

(xiv) difluoromethyl,

(xv) trifluromethoxy,

(xvi) difluoromethoxy,

(xvii) $(C_3\text{-}C_7)$cylcoalkyl,

(xviii) COR^3,

(xix) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl-COR4,
(xx) amino$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl- COR4,
(xxi) hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl- COR4
(xxii) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy-COR5,
(xxiii) $-C(NH_2)=N\text{-}OH$
(xxiv) $NHSO_2R^6$,
(xxv) SO_2R^7,
(xxvi) $NHCOR^8$,
(xxvii) SOR^9,
(xxviii) SR^{10},
(xxix) $CONHR^{11}$,
(xxx) $O\text{–}(CH_2)q\text{–}NR^{12}R^{13}$, wherein q represents 1-4,
(xxxi) tetrazole,
(xxxii) methyltetrazole, and
(xxxiii) $CONCH\text{-}NR^{15}R^{16}$

(c) heterocycle;

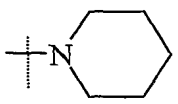
(d) heterocycle optionally substituted one to three times with a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of:
(i) halo,
(ii) amino,
(iii) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl,
(iv) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy,
(v) halophenyl$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl,
(vi) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl-$(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxycarbonyl,
(vii) CHO,
(viii) COR^3, and
(ix) SO_2R^7,

(e) benzofused heterocycle;

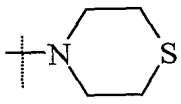
(f) benzofused heterocycle optionally substituted one or two times with a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of:
(i) halo,
(ii) amino,
(iii) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkyl,
(iv) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkoxy, and
(v) $(C_1\text{-}C_4)$alkylcarbonyl,

or (g) $(C_3\text{-}C_7)$cylcoalkyl;

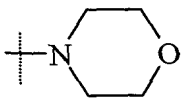
R^3 represents independently at each occurrence amino, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkoxy, NH-$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkylamine, N,N-$(C_1$-$C_4)$dialkylamine, or a heterocycle selected from the group consisting of:



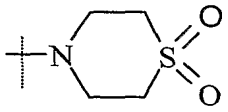
(a) ,



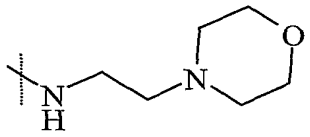
(b) ,



(c)



(d) , or



(e)

R^4 and R^5 represent independently at each occurrence amino, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl, or $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkoxy;

R^6 and R^7 represent independently at each occurrence amino or (C1-C4)alkyl;

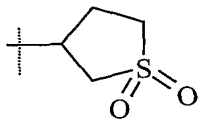
R^8 represents independently at each occurrence amino, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl, or $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkoxy;

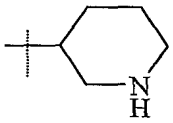
R^9 and R^{10} represent independently at each occurrence (C1-C4)alkyl;

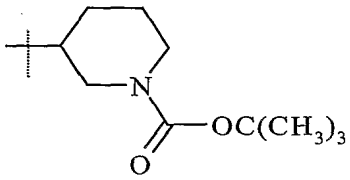
R^{11} represents independently at each occurrence (C1-C4)alkyl or a substituent selected from the group consisting of:

(a) $-(CH_2)_n-X-Y$

(b) $-CH(COR^{14})-(CH_2)_m-X'-Y'$

(c) 

(d) 

and (e) 

wherein,

n and m each independently represent 0-4;

X and X' represent independently at each occurrence –CO-, -CH_2-, -NH-, -S-, or –SO_2-; and

Y and Y' represent independently at each occurrence amino, hydroxy, (C_1-C_4)alkyl, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy, (C_1-C_4)alkoxycarbonyl, NH-(C_1-C_4)alkylamine, or N,N-(C_1-C_4)dialkylamine,

provided that where X or X' represents S, then Y or Y'' is not amino or hydroxy;

R^{12} and R^{13} represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen or (C_1-C_4)alkyl, or R^{12} and R^{13} together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a piperidino, pyrrolidino, morpholino or a methylpiperazino group;

R^{14} represents independently at each occurrence hydroxy, amino, or (C_1-C_4)alkoxy; and

R^{15} and R^{16} each represent independently at each occurrence hydrogen or (C_1-C_4)alkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. A method of treating congestive heart failure comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to Claim 1.

3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound according to Claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

4. The use of a compound according to Claim 1 for the manufacture of amedicament for the treatment of congestive heart failure.